

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

AUGUST 2003



La Crosse Metro & State Seasonal Rates Unchanged, National Rate Declined

July Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** was unchanged in July, at four percent. The four percent figure is 0.1 of a percentage point lower than the 4.1 percent rate recorded in July 2002. The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was also unchanged in July, at 5.6 percent, but was up 0.2 percentage points from the 5.4 percent recorded statewide in July 2002.

Six of eight Western Counties experienced declining unadjusted unemployment rates in July, joining the 62 of Wisconsin's 72 counties that had lower unadjusted unemployment rates in July than in June

Seven Wisconsin counties had July unadjusted unemployment rates below four percent. Two of those counties, La Crosse and Jackson, are in Western Wisconsin.

Statewide Notes

July unadjusted unemployment for Wisconsin was 5.5 percent, down slightly from 5.7 percent in June. The national unadjusted rate for July was 6.3 percent, down slightly from 6.5 percent in June.

Manufacturing continues to struggle throughout the state, particularly in the durable goods sectors in the southern part of the state and the paper industry in the northeastern and the north central part of the state. Wisconsin typically sees lower unemployment rates in the July through November period, as many Wisconsin manufacturers report seasonal increases in production, and the agricultural and tourism industries enjoy increasing employment as well.

National Notes

Nationally, manufacturers saw demand for big-ticket products rise for the second straight month in July, an encouraging sign that the manufacturing sector and the national economy is turning around. The US Commerce Department recently reported that new orders for durable goods went up by a solid one percent in July, on top of a bigger, 2.6 percent gain in June. The back-to-back gains marked a considerable improvement over the previous 2 months, when new orders fell by 1.4 percent in April and were flat in May.

The Employment Cost Index for total compensation for civilian workers increased 0.9 percent from March to June

2003, following a 1.3 percent gain from December 2002 to March 2003, seasonally adjusted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Benefit costs increased 1.4 percent and continued to outpace the 0.6 percent gain in wages and salaries for civilian workers in June.

The decade-

long exit from California to other states accelerated last year for the first time since 1994, as Californians fled smog, traffic, a rising cost of living and an imploding job market. Californians who left for other states exceeded new arrivals by 108,500 in 2002, almost triple the previous year's 39,500 net departures, according to the economic commentary from Economy.com. Economy.com based its estimates on Census Bureau figures, plus data such as school enrollments, employment, and utility hookups and disconnections. The jump in out-migration was California's biggest in at least a decade.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: July 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	76,800	3,099.2	146,540
Employment	73,700	2,925.0	137,478
Unemployment	3,100	174.3	9,062
Unemployment rate	4.0%	5.6%	6.2%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	400	-1.9	(556)
Employment	400	-3.1	(260)
Unemployment	100	1.3	(296)
Unemployment rate	0.0%	0.0%	-0.2%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	1,500	75.8	1,754
Employment	1,600	64.8	1,135
Unemployment	0	11.1	619
Unemployment rate	-0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			
<i>* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota</i>			

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

July 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,760	10,940	12,570	11,130	65,100	21,700	16,340	14,830	160,370	95,270	3,167,650
Employed	7,390	10,390	12,110	10,170	62,550	20,610	15,570	14,120	152,900	90,350	2,992,260
Unemployed	370	540	460	970	2,550	1,090	780	710	7,470	4,920	175,390
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.9%	3.7%	8.7%	3.9%	5.0%	4.7%	4.8%	4.7%	5.2%	5.5%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	5,000	8,200	8,800	9,100	68,700	18,300	13,600	8,600	140,200	71,500	2,800,500
Total Private	4,200	7,000	5,900	7,100	60,200	14,100	11,500	6,500	116,400	56,200	2,421,000
Goods Producing	500	1,700	2,000	2,500	11,900	4,100	5,900	1,200	29,700	17,800	650,500
Service Producing	4,500	6,500	6,800	6,600	56,800	14,200	7,700	7,400	110,400	53,700	2,150,000
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	170	270	1,170	290	2,900	610	320	270	6,000	3,100	131,600
Manufacturing	300	1,400	800	2,200	9,000	3,500	5,600	900	23,700	14,700	518,900
Trade	500	2,100	1,000	1,200	12,600	2,700	1,500	1,800	23,300	10,700	441,100
Transportation & Utilities	1,800	200	800	300	2,000	1,600	600	300	7,600	5,600	322,000
Financial Activities	160	210	240	250	3,600	610	360	390	5,800	2,200	159,100
Education and Health Services	600	1,200	600	1,200	12,300	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,100	7,800	362,100
Leisure & Hospitality	500	1,000	1,000	1,100	7,300	1,900	1,100	700	14,500	7,300	262,700
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	600	300	500	10,600	1,500	1,000	600	15,400	4,800	441,900
Total Government	810	1,160	2,930	1,990	8,460	4,200	2,080	2,180	23,800	15,300	379,500
Federal	180	70	60	220	540	2,270	130	120	3,590	3,050	28,500
State	20	210	420	570	1,800	230	40	50	3,330	1,530	91,700
Local	600	880	2,450	1,210	6,120	1,700	1,900	2,010	16,890	10,770	259,300
Change from one month ago	June 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	30	180	30	-120	100	-80	-160	-80	-100	-200	162,900
Employed	0	220	60	-80	200	-70	-90	-70	200	0	146,400
Unemployed	30	-50	-30	-50	-100	-10	-70	-10	-300	-200	16,600
Unemployment rate(%)	0.4	-0.6	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.2
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	-190	60	-100	-220	-1,000	-340	-300	-170	-2,300	-1,300	-30,700
Percent change NFWS from last month	-3.7%	0.7%	-1.1%	-2.4%	-1.5%	-1.8%	-2.2%	-2.0%	-1.6%	-1.7%	-1.1%
Total Private	0	70	100	0	-400	0	70	20	-200	200	8,400
Goods Producing	10	-30	100	0	-100	-100	80	10	0	100	1,700
Service Producing	-200	80	-200	-200	-900	-300	-380	-180	-2,300	-1,400	-32,400
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	0	-10	70	10	0	0	10	10	100	100	1,800
Manufacturing	10	-20	0	0	-100	-70	70	0	-100	0	-100
Trade	0	100	0	0	100	0	-10	-10	100	0	1,500
Transportation & Utilities	-20	0	-10	-30	-200	20	-30	0	-300	-100	1,100
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education and Health Services	0	0	10	0	-100	-10	10	0	-100	0	-700
Leisure & Hospitality	0	10	20	0	100	10	10	0	200	100	5,700
Svcs	0	-10	10	20	-200	20	10	20	-100	100	3,200
Total Government	-190	-20	-200	-220	-630	-310	-380	-190	-2,100	-1,500	-39,100
Federal	0	0	0	-10	0	10	-10	0	0	0	-200
State	0	-10	-50	0	0	-20	0	0	-100	-100	-4,200
Local	-180	-10	-150	-210	-630	-290	-370	-190	-2,000	-1,400	-34,700
Change from one year ago	July 2002										
Civilian Labor Force**	250	300	680	260	1,400	560	970	480	4,900	3,500	76,000
Employed	170	220	660	190	1,400	430	890	440	4,400	3,000	65,100
Unemployed	80	80	20	70	0	130	80	40	500	500	10,900
Unemployment rate(%)	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	-0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	140	60	360	10	100	160	630	200	1,700	1,600	4,800
Percent change NFWS from last year	2.9%	0.7%	4.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.9%	4.9%	2.4%	1.2%	2.2%	0.2%
Total Private	140	60	100	200	500	500	600	100	2,100	1,700	8,400
Goods Producing	40	-250	100	-100	-300	0	300	0	-200	100	-22,900
Service Producing	100	310	300	200	400	200	300	200	1,900	1,500	27,700
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	0	80	-10	-200	-20	-40	-30	-200	0	-8,500
Manufacturing	20	-250	0	-100	-100	20	340	50	0	100	-14,400
Trade	-10	80	0	0	800	100	80	100	1,200	400	6,100
Transportation & Utilities	60	20	0	20	-300	80	20	20	-100	200	2,700
Financial Activities	0	10	0	10	100	10	20	20	200	100	4,000
Education and Health Services	-10	60	100	100	100	70	50	20	400	300	4,900
Leisure & Hospitality	60	150	100	200	100	230	170	20	1,000	1,000	3,000
Svcs	0	0	-100	0	-100	-60	-50	-60	-400	-300	11,800
Total Government	0	0	230	-170	-360	-290	50	70	-500	-100	-3,600
Federal	0	0	0	-60	0	-160	0	0	-200	-200	-1,000
State	0	0	-30	-20	-90	-30	0	-10	-200	-100	600
Local	0	0	260	-80	-270	-100	50	70	-100	200	-3,100

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>
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